THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Inequality in wages could be due to differences in the nature of work and the hours of work performed by men and women. Government is however, taking various measures under the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 to provide for equal remuneration to men and women for the same work or work of similar nature without any discrimination. The Act is being enforced by the respective State Government in the State Sphere and the Central Government in the Central Sphere. Government of India is regularly monitoring the implementation of the Act at the State and the Central levels.

FAO Report regarding workers

2670. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Report that agriculture workers who did not own or rent the land on which they work or the tools and equipment they use are often earning wages well below those earned by industrial workers;

(b) whether it is a fact that major component of Indian Economy is "agriculture or agriculture related operations";

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to ensure that agriculture workers are adequately paid for their labour; and

(d) whether any study has been made to find out specific reasons for agriculture workers generally living in dire conditions, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table on the House.

Productivity and competitiveness of work force in PSUs

2671. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any long-term plan to improve productivity and competitiveness of workforce in public sector manufacturing industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) The Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) make their own Human Resource Development (HRD) plans. The CPSEs are expected to improve productivity and competitiveness of workforce. The Government has introduced several measures like Performance Related Payment Plan, organization of Executive Development Programmes in association with several reputed Management Organizations and foreign training. Further, the system of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is also introduced in the CPSEs in which adequate weightage is given on improvement in production and efficiency by CPSE.

(c) Does not arise.

Rehabilitation of Child Labourers in Karnataka

2672. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that a large number of child labourers are employed in mining in the Bellary-Hospet region in Karnataka;

(b) whether any cases have been booked against mining contractors who have violated the Child Labour Act;

(c) whether it is a fact that the failure of traditional occupations like agriculture and weaving has forced parents to send their children to do hazardous work in mines; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for the rehabilitation of children who discontinue their studies to earn a livelihood?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) There is no incidence of child labour in organized mining area of Bellary-Hospet region of Karnataka. However, some cases of children of migrant families working in Float Ore mining areas have been reported.